



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF POLICE ORGANIZATIONS, INC.

Representing America's Finest

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March 17, 2017

The Honorable Aramis Ayala
State Attorney for the 9th Judicial Circuit of Florida
415 North Orange Avenue
Orlando, Florida 32801

Dear Ms. Ayala:

On behalf of the National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO) and the more than 240,000 law enforcement officers we represent across the United States, especially those represented by the Florida Police Benevolent Association, we write to you to express our extreme concern and disappointment with your decision not to seek the death penalty for Markeith Loyd, who is charged with murdering his pregnant ex-girlfriend, Sade Dixon, and then assassinating Orlando Lieutenant Debra Clayton as she tried to apprehend him.

Markeith Loyd committed two violent and heinous crimes and under Florida law, the jury has the option to impose the death penalty in such cases. When you took the office of State Attorney, you swore an oath to follow the law and to put personal feelings aside when making any and all decisions. In deciding not to seek the death penalty, you broke your oath and put your personal beliefs above the law and the justice system.

Communities are safer when those who contemplate or commit the most egregious crimes face strict penalties. The Florida Legislature, Governor Rick Scott and the citizens of Florida recognized this fact when they supported and signed into law the new death penalty statute, which you quickly pushed aside. Markeith Loyd is a prime example of a case when the death penalty must be sought, not only because he murdered one of our community's most vulnerable, a pregnant Sade Dixon, but also because he killed in cold blood a protector of our communities, Lt. Debra Clayton.

NAPO commends the decision of Governor Scott to remove this case from your personal control so that Markeith Loyd can be punished to the fullest extent of the law and the families and loved ones of the victims, including the Orlando law enforcement community, can have closure. Further, we call for your resignation from the Office of State Attorney for your unwillingness to follow the law. We cannot allow more victims to suffer while you make decisions based on personal beliefs and not the rule of law.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me through our national office at (703) 549-0775.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael McHale". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Michael" and last name "McHale" clearly legible.

Michael McHale
President

Cc: The Honorable Rick Scott, Governor
The Honorable Joe Negron, President, Florida Senate
The Honorable Richard Corcoran, Speaker, Florida House of Representatives
The Honorable Pam Bondi, Florida Attorney General
Mr. John Rivera, President, Florida Police Benevolent Association